

REMARKS

Claims 14-19 and 22-34 are pending in the application; claims 1-13 and 20-21 are canceled; claims 23-34 have been newly added.

Election/Restriction

Applicant affirms election of claims 1-5, 14-15, 18, 19, 21 as being drawn to group I, subspecies b, for prosecution.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Whiting (US 2,918,941)*.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are canceled.

Claims 1-4, 14-16, 18, 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Viles et al. (US 3,882,891)*.

Claims 1-4 are canceled. Claim 14 has been amended to include the feature of allowable claim 21 so that the above rejection no longer applies.

Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form to include the features of claims 14 and 18. Claim 19 defines a valve arrangement comprising at least one check valve that comprises a closing element configured to close at least one bore, wherein the closing element is comprised of a strip formed to a ring. The valve arrangement comprises a valve member having an annular channel and at least one bore opening into the annular channel, wherein the strip of the at least one check valve is arranged in the annular channel. The annular channel is arranged in an outer wall of a valve sleeve of the valve member, wherein the valve member comprises an auxiliary sleeve surrounding the valve sleeve and closing the annular channel radially outwardly, wherein the strip rests with elastic pretension against the auxiliary sleeve.

Figs. 3 and 4 of *Viles et al.* show that the "strip" (check valve) 28 rest against the fluid conductor 30. The operation of the check valve is described in col. 2, lines 58ff: the pressurized fluid flows into the ports 34, 35 of the conductor 30 and moves the legs 31, 32 away from the conductor to open the ports 34, 35 so that the fluid can flow into the space 38. This reference does not suggest or teach that strip 28 rests against the inner wall of the banjo fitting 36 that delimits the space 38.

Therefore, claim 19 is believed to be allowable. Claim 19 also concerns the elected species having the groove arranged on the exterior of the sleeve.

- 4 -

9/21/04: Amd for Ser. No. 10/064,861 - Inventor(s): Cornea et al. - Filing Date: 8/23/2002

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the features of claims 1 and 21 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims. New claims 23-34 have been added that include the features of original claims 2 to 13 regarding the configuration of the strip. The features defining the strip concern the elected species (groove outside of the sleeve).

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 17, 20, and 22 as being drawn to a non-elected species. The amended claim 14 containing the allowable feature of claim 21 ("floatingly arranged") is generic to both the arrangement of Fig. 1 (inner groove) and Fig. 2 (outer groove) so that rejoinder of claim 17 is respectfully requested. Claim 20 is canceled. Claim 22 has been made dependent from claim 19 and should thus also be rejoined.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on September 21, 2004,


Ms. Gudrun E. Hockett, Ph.D.
Patent Agent, Registration No. 35,747
Lönsstr. 53
42289 Wuppertal
GERMANY
Telephone: +49-202-257-0371
Facsimile: +49-202-257-0372
gudrun.draudt@t-online.de

GEH/Encl.: time extension petition (1 sheet)

- 5 -

9/21/04: Amd for Ser. No. 10/064,861 - Inventor(s): Cornea et al. - Filing Date: 8/23/2002